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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOLTER LAKE BOAT-IN SITES EXPERIENCING BEAR PROBLEM

BUTTE – (August 18, 2004) – Campers using the undeveloped boat-in sites on Holter Lake are cautioned to use “bear safe” camping practices to avoid attracting bears to their camp site.

“Recently a healthy black bear had to be humanely destroyed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks wardens after it became habituated to human food,” commented Terry Sauer, law enforcement officer for the Bureau of Land Management. “Usually a fed bear ends up as a dead bear.”

The bears are attracted to any food product, garbage or even toiletries such as sunscreen or lipstick. Once bears become accustomed to human food, they can become aggressive and can cause extensive damage to motor vehicles, campers, ice chests, and other camping equipment while searching for food.

To avoid attracting bears, keep a clean camp and never leave food unattended in a campsite. Food items not in immediate use should be hung 10 feet off the ground and four feet out from tree trunks. Never store food or eat in your tent and keep the sleeping area separated from the cooking area.

When you leave an area, take your garbage with you. Federal and State law allows for citations to be issued for failure to keep a clean camp or creating a hazard by leaving food out.